

was a politician and was a genuine democrat, and therefore suited to lead a genuine democracy. He was infinitely superior to Jefferson of course; for Jefferson led the people wrong, and followed them when they went wrong; and though he had plenty of imagination and of sentimental inspiration, he had neither courage nor far-sighted common sense, where the interests of the nation were at stake.

"I have not much sympathy with Hamilton's distrust of the democracy. Nobody knows better than I that a democracy may go very wrong indeed, and I loathe the kind of demagoguery which finds expression in such statements as 'the voice of the people is the voice of God'; but in my own experience it has certainly been true, and if I read history aright it was true both before and at the time of the Civil War, that the highly cultivated classes, who tend to become either cynically worldly-wise or to develop along the lines of the Eighteenth Century philosophers, and the moneyed classes, especially those of large fortune, whose ideal tends to the mere money, are not fitted for any predominant guidance in a really great nation. I do not dislike but I certainly have no especial respect or admiration for and no trust in, the typical big moneyed man of my country. I do not regard them as furnishing sound opinion as regards either foreign or domestic policies.

"Quite as little do I regard as furnishing such opinion the men who especially pride themselves on their cultivation—the men like many of those who graduate from my

own college of Harvard, and who find their
organs in the
New York Evening Post and *Nation*. These
papers are
written especially for cultivated gentlefolk.
They have
many minor virtues, moral and intellectual;
and yet during
my twenty-five years in public life I have found
them much
more often wrong than right on the great and
vital public
issues. In England they would be howling little
England-
ers, would be raving against the expense of
the navy, and
eager to find out something to criticize in Lord
Cramer's
management of Egypt, not to speak of
perpetually insist-
ing upon abandoning the Soudan."